



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION V  
EMERGENCY AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE BRANCH

P O L L U T I O N   R E P O R T

DATE : JUN 08 1992

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SUBJECT: Himco Dump Site, County Road 10, Elkhart,  
Elkhart County, Indiana  
Site I.D. #4J

POLREP: Final

RESPONSE AUTHORITY: CERCLA

NPL STATUS: NPL Site since February 1990

START DATE: 7 May 1992

1. SITUATION: The site is a former nonpermitted landfill developed within and over a wetland in northeast Elkhart, Indiana. The site was operated during the period of 1960 through 1976 for the primary disposal of calcium sulfate waste by-products from a major local laboratory. These ~~wastes~~ reportedly composed approximately 2/3s of all waste types received. Other wastes deposited included general domestic refuse and quantities of various industrial waste materials. The capacity of the landfill includes 60 acres with wastes varying in depths from 10 to 15 feet.

As a result of the annual NPL Site removal assessments conducted by EERB, it was determined that unknown quantities of VOCs with very low flashpoints had been disposed within the site in dangerous proximity to residences along the southeastern periphery of the facility. A site assessment, conducted on May 7 to

ascertain threats to the public health and the environment at this site, disclosed that toluene, xylene, 2-hexanone, ethylbenzene, and 4-methyl-2-pentanone (MIBK) in concentrations as high as 480,000 ppm for toluene to a low of 6,400 ppm for ethylbenzene had been deposited within the site. These contaminants are in buried leaking drums and are creating potential groundwater contamination hazards as well as threats of fire and explosion.

During the course of this removal action, the facility was the object of concerted media contacts by local radio and television stations as well as the local and regional newspapers.

## **2. ACTION TAKEN:**

The PRPs associated with this site, namely, Himco Waste-Away Services, Inc., were contacted by way of a 122(e) Notification of Potential Liability letter on May 12, 1992 and they were instructed to respond to this imminent hazard within 24 hours by preparing a work plan to address the conditions of the site within 72 hours. Subsequently an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was issued (No. V-W-92-C-152) on June 1, 1992 (PRP signed the Order on May 20, 1992 ) to the PRP to conduct the prescribed emergency removal action. An Action Memorandum was also prepared in support of the prescribed removal which required excavation of specified areas within the southeastern portion of the site, removal of all VOC contaminants, and the conduct an extent of contamination (EOC) survey within a 90 degree portion of this rough circular shaped site to ensure that no additional VOC hazardous substances are within the site area where the residences abut the site.

The PRP-lead removal action commenced on May 19, 1992 with the excavation of the identified VOC contaminated location. Excavation of the site to a depth of 6 feet, removal and overpacking of 71-55 gallon (3,905 gals) capacity VOC containing drums was accomplished and completed on May 22 with all contaminants subsequently pumped into a 5,500 gallon capacity tanker truck for transport to a fuel blending facility in Louisiana. Estimated volume of site contaminants, including pockets of groundwater vacuumed from the trench area, is 4,800 gallons.

On June 4 and 5, 1992 the PRPs by way of their contractor, Mittelhauser Corp., mobilized to the site to

undertake and complete the EOC survey of the suspect area of the Himco Site to determine whether additional VOC contaminants were encountered. Based on the field testing techniques using qualitative assessments with headspace analysis of saturated materials derived from nine soil boring locations during auger drilling and split spoon sampling, no detectable VOC contamination was found. One sample per boring was also submitted for laboratory analysis for VOCs according to U.S. EPA Publication SW-846, Method 8240. The results of these analyses should be forthcoming within 3 weeks or about June 26, 1992.

**3. FUTURE ACTION:**

The PRPs are to prepare and submit a memorandum documenting the activities and results of the EOC survey in a timely manner once the sample analytical results are received from their chosen (NET Midwest Labs in Rockford, Ill.) laboratory. This Agency also has conducted spot verification sampling of some of the samples submitted by the PRPs.

Based on the field testing, overall appearances and day-to-day observations of all removal activity in this action, this facility currently does not require additional removal action from EERB. The site will be released for further pursuit of the remedial investigations by the IL/IN Remedial Response Section of U.S. EPA, Region V.

**4. ESTIMATED COSTS:**

The Action Memorandum prepared in support of the removal action, based on use of the Removal Costs Management System (RCMS), indicates a cost of approximately \$585,000 to initiate and complete the removal action specified for this facility.

To date, all costs incurred are borne by the PRP with oversight costs to be reimbursed to this Agency. Oversight costs would include OSC and RPM site activities, TES/TAT contractor use for assistance and verification sampling, and associated costs. The AOC requires that the PRPs submit all costs associated with this removal once the expenditures are finalized.